

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a computer network, a method comprising,  
providing a profile schema, the profile schema having profile-related fields arranged into a content document with defined structures for the fields;  
receiving a data access request directed to contact information, the request including associated identity information; and  
in response to the data access request, manipulating at least one set of data in a logical profile document that includes data therein according to the associated identity information, each set of data in the logical profile document structured to correspond to a field in the content document.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein manipulating at least one set of data comprises reading data from at least one field in the logical profile document.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein manipulating at least one set of data comprises writing data to at least one field in the logical profile document.
4. In a computer network, a method comprising,  
receiving a request to retrieve profile data, the request including associated identity information;  
reading from a data store to obtain profile data based on the associated identity information;

constructing a profile document including at least part of the data, the document arranged according to a defined schema for profile data; and  
returning the document in response to the request.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the schema includes at least one defined field for extending the schema.